

Gallaudet Fact—

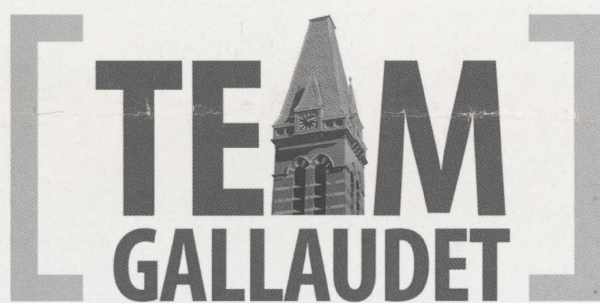
Q. The first periodical printed exclusively for the deaf community was closely tied to Gallaudet. What was the name of the journal?

- A. *American Annals of the Deaf*
- B. *The Silent Worker*
- C. *The Buff and Blue*
- D. *The Gallaudet Guide and Deaf-Mutes' Companion*

Answer on page 2.



Kathy Schwartz, M.A., (fourth from left), learning specialist and director of the Academic Support Center at American University, was the speaker at an April 27 Learning Disabilities Forum for Faculty and Staff. The forum, entitled "Learning Disabilities and the College Student," addressed transitioning from high school to college, disability documentation, legal mandates, classroom accommodations, and dual disabilities. It was sponsored by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSWD) and coordinated by Dr. Patricia Tesar, acting director of the OSWD. The event attracted 79 faculty, staff, and administrators. Also pictured are (from left): Eileen Matthews, CAPSS associate dean; Tesar; James Akridge, OSWD acting coordinator; Janet Byrne, OSWD senior low vision specialist; Arthur Roehrig, OSWD counselor; and Edgar Palmer, OSWD director on special assignment with the President's Office.



greatideas@gallaudet.edu

Campus Calendar

July

28—Second Annual ASL Fest, 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., GUKCH (Pre-registration suggested. Register at gradschool.gallaudet.edu/casll/aslfest)

IN THIS ISSUE



Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America author Firoozeh Dumas at a book signing on campus.



Dr. Laurene Simms presents "Gallaudet: Who Harkens to the Beacon?"



Dr. Lillie Ransom, faculty advisor to the Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society in Communication Studies.

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New Mission and Vision Statement drafted; community input sought

The campus community was informed June 1 that a new Mission and Vision Statement for the University had been drafted. The message came in an email from Dr. MJ Bienvenu and Dr. Simon Guteng, co-chairs of the University Mission Workgroup.

The co-chairs said in the letter that the draft is the effort of the 20 members of the workgroup, "who represent the wide diversity of the Gallaudet community and have worked diligently over the past few weeks in crafting this mission." They added that feedback from the community on specific points and the overall

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Dr. Simon Guteng, co-chair of the University Mission Workgroup with Dr. MJ Bienvenu, responds to a comment from Cindy Officer, academic support services counselor in Tutorial and Instructional Programs, regarding the draft of the new Mission and Vision Statement for Gallaudet at a June 6 Town Hall meeting. The Town Hall was held to get critical input from the campus community on the draft document prepared by a 20-member working group representing a broad spectrum of University community members. Feedback was also solicited until June 13 through an online survey. Results will be shared with the community and incorporated into a second draft that will be presented to the Board of Trustees by the end of the month.

A & F internship program helps students be part of 'daily miracles'

A main goal of students is to increase their job prospects after graduation. Now, thanks to a new internship program offered this summer by the Division of Administration & Finance (A & F), their opportunities have been enhanced.

A & F comprises many departments that support students and everyone else on campus, including the Bon Appetit food service, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Transportation, and Audit and Management Advisory Services. Everything from a student's dorm room alarm clock waking her up, to her breakfast, to the shuttle that brings her to the Metro station is provided by A & F. The internship program has both raised awareness of this important part of Gallaudet and offered opportunities for resumé-building experience in the day-to-day operation of a major organization.

"We wanted to have a program in place where A & F can rely on skilled student workers and teach skills that will be a good stepping stone to getting a good job," said A & F Vice President Paul Kelly. Along with Kelly, President Robert Davila and Program Development Director Fred Weiner have worked to create and operate the program.

Weiner's reasons for the idea are similar: "Our goal is to develop an internship program that will provide interns with meaningful real-world experiences in A & F to enhance their future marketability and employability after graduation."

Expanding on-campus internship prospects for students in more majors was crucial to achieving this goal, Weiner explained. "Many on-campus internships are related to the education and human services fields such as teaching and counseling," he said. "They have many opportunities for internships on campus, and we want to give those interested in working in fields outside of deafness such as business and organizational communications that same opportunity."

There are many areas in A & F where students can get a hands-on experience, including project management, auditing, accounting, budget assessment, risk management, finance, and business development.

One of the students interning in A & F this summer is junior Robert McConnell from Ohio, a double major in communication studies and government and current president of the Student Body Government. McConnell is gaining a unique perspective on how Gallaudet operates. "Interning here gives me a special opportunity to witness some of the small, daily miracles that A & F accomplishes to ensure that Gallaudet functions effectively," McConnell said. Joining McConnell

in this internship are Andres Piedrahita, Adam Brimmer, Casey Przygoda, Sylvia Herdicka, Jason Bailey, Shannon Bertling, and Elsie Ritchie.

To choose these students, A & F worked closely with the Career Center and the Department of Business to identify strong candidates. A & F is highly selective. According to Weiner, "Most employers will only hire students with good GPAs. For that reason, we need to have the same standards."

A & F also provides a wealth of non-internship job opportunities to students during the school year. Between 30 and 50 students are employed by A & F at any given time. Students from all majors are invited to apply for these positions to get their own glimpse of the division.

Another benefit of the program is better exposure for A & F, which is often behind the scenes. McConnell said that he, for one, has gained a better appreciation of the division's work. He calls A & F "the engine that makes Gallaudet run." ■

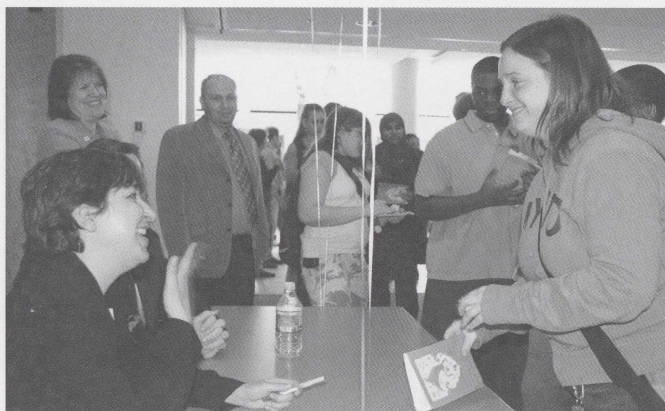
Deadline nears for FY '08 Priority Research

The Gallaudet Priority Research Grant program's deadline for the 2008 fiscal year is approaching. Interested researchers should send an Expression of Interest to Apply before August 15 and submit a Grant Proposal up until October 15.

The Priority Grant fund is designed for Gallaudet faculty and staff interested in seeking research support to study areas of high priority to the University. More information and forms are available at research.gallaudet.edu. Contact senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu if there are any questions.

This year's Priority Research grantees are:

1. Gina Oliva, Physical Education and Recreation—"Motivation and goals of owners, managers, and counselors of planned recreational (summer and weekend) programs for deaf and hard of hearing children";
2. Deborah Chen-Pichler, Linguistics—"Effects of Bilingualism on Word Order and Information Packaging in ASL";
3. Cynthia Roy and Melanie Metzger, Interpreting—"Investigating Interactive Interpreting"; and
4. Susan Mather, Linguistics; Pilar Pinar and Amanda Holzrichter, Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and Dennis Galvin, Psychology—"Gesture and ASL Acquisition." ■



Firoozeh Dumas, author of *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*, Gallaudet's common reading title for 2006-07 (and selected again for the coming academic year), signs copies of her book following an April 20 campus presentation. Many of *Funny in Farsi's* themes—identity issues, culture shock,

family support, for example—are also experienced by first-year college students. New students discussed the book during New Student Orientation and in First Year Seminar and English classes. It also provided an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to interact and share the common reading experience.

Clerc Center Happenings

Kendall School launches 150th anniversary website; alumni host historic reunion

By Susan M. Flanigan

In celebration of Kendall School's 150th anniversary year, the school has launched a special website featuring highlights of its history, a biography of school founder Amos Kendall, special events, student projects, and a "Then and Now" collection of photos.

The Kendall School Alumni Association is hosting an historic reunion at KDES June 14 to 16. On June 15, the celebration of past and future coincides with a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the Kendall Museum. KDES students have joined in the celebration with projects that view Kendall School's past and look to its future from a variety of perspectives. These projects are showcased in the school's lobby and main hallway, along with a timeline of the school's history and memorabilia contributed by alumni.

A fun part of the timeline display is a project for which students created models and drawings of what the KDES building will look like in 2050. As part of a

time capsule project, students collected items to share information about their school with future KDES students. The process involved choosing artifacts to go into the capsule, compiling a book of essays related to the items in it, and creating a PowerPoint presentation about the capsule. A formal ceremony, including the presentation and time capsule burial, will be held on June 15.

On the museum's opening day, students will air a 150th anniversary broadcast of "Wildcat News," a news broadcast created by KDES students and aired on televisions in the KDES building. As part of a living history project, alumni will be invited to share their experiences as students at Kendall School. All stories will be videotaped and put on the web. Students and alumni will also have the opportunity to have their pictures taken with life-size photo stand-ups of Amos Kendall and three of today's KDES students.

To access the 150th anniversary website, visit clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/kdes/150. ■

New inductees to the Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society in Communication Studies are shown with the Gallaudet chapter's faculty advisor, Dr. Lillie Ransom (left), an associate professor in the



Department of Communication Studies. The inductees are (from second left): Socorro Garcia, Jessica Kuehne, Megan Klusza, RitaAnn DeBono, Haydee Garcia, and Matthew Gilsbach. (Not pictured is Krystle Berrigan.) The purpose of Lambda Pi Eta is to encourage and recognize scholastic achievement, stimulate interest in communication, promote professional development, exchange ideas about the field, foster close relationships between faculty and students, and explore options for graduate study.

Mission and Vision Statement

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statement was important, since it must have the support of the campus, and that input would be accepted until June 13. The workgroup sponsored a Town Hall meeting on June 6 to gather feedback, comments, and suggestions on the proposed draft.

Bienvenu and Guteng explained in their letter that because of the tight schedule mandated by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, President Davila had set a deadline of June 30 to complete the Mission and Vision Statement review process.

The Mission and Vision Statement draft can be read at www.gallaudet.edu/x3946.xml. ■

Distinguished Faculty Member presents on Gallaudet as a beacon to the world

In the rocky sea of educational choices, Gallaudet can be a lighthouse guiding the way. This was the message that Dr. Laurene Simms, 2006 Distinguished University Faculty and an associate professor in the Department of Education, shared at her recent lecture, "Gallaudet: Who Harkens to the Beacon?"

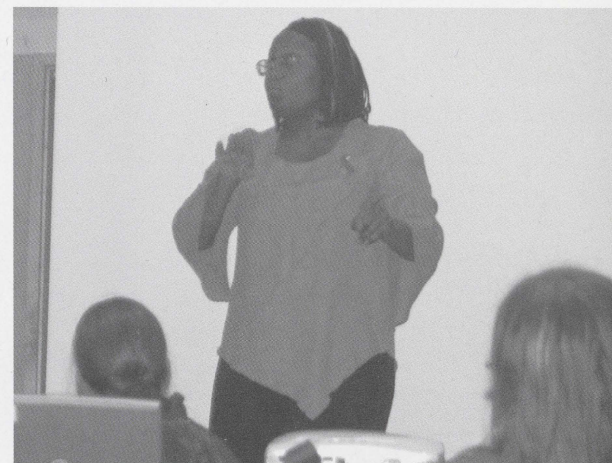
Simms discussed Gallaudet's "gleam" that has drawn individuals from around the globe to Kendall Green. She believes the gleam is a combination of Gallaudet's values, cultural and social implications, and the reputation of academic excellence.

From her many years in the education field, Simms could see how Gallaudet, as an educational institution with the power to train future teachers, exerts an important influence. Simms showed statistics and video testimonials demonstrating how Gallaudet's reputation has drawn in many of the students in the Department of Education's graduate degree programs. For each student, Gallaudet offered something that made them choose its programs over more than 70 similar deaf education programs nationally. Students were attracted to the unique linguistic and cultural experience that Gallaudet offered, they said, as well as the direct communication between deaf students and faculty. Many appreciated the idea that both ASL and English thrive at Gallaudet. The attraction of Gallaudet is evidenced in the way that students flocked to the Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program preparing teachers for ASL/English bilingual K-12 education, when it was established in 2005.

The first class of MAT students graduated this May, and employers will be quick to pursue them. However, the national trends point to declining numbers of deaf children learning ASL, and the lack of a formalized ASL curriculum is not helping the situation. Given this environment, "Gallaudet is trying, not thriving," said Simms.

Ironically, more hearing K-12 and college students are taking ASL classes than deaf students and more parents are teaching their hearing infants to sign. Fewer parents choose that route for their deaf children, although evidence points to better learning and language acquisition in both hearing and deaf children who are exposed to sign language during their early years.

Simms stressed the need to put English and ASL on equal footing and for Gallaudet to use its influence in that effort. Simms suggested that Gallaudet examine its role, focus on early ASL/English bilingual education, and create a bilingual frame based in its own version of the "three R's—rich, rich resources." She noted that Gallaudet has many language- and communication-related departments and programs that are ripe for collaboration. Not only those groups, but also the diverse constituencies Gallaudet must work together,



Dr. Laurene Simms presents on Gallaudet's role as a beacon that leads to a place of thriving ASL and English.

she said—whether they identify themselves as deaf, Deaf, English as a second language learners, cochlear implant user, or anything else. "We must be agents of change as lighthouse keepers," she said, and encouraged the audience to "take an occasional risk" by shifting from talk to action.

To close, Simms chose a quotation from an unknown author that she stumbled upon which illuminated her hopes for the future: "Let the Tower Clock shine brightly on us as we begin this new chapter in Gallaudet's history." ■

Gallaudet Fact—

A. The answer is D. *The Gallaudet Guide and Deaf-Mutes' Companion*. While *American Annals of the Deaf*, first published in the 1840s, was dedicated to deaf people (deaf education, to be specific), it was for both a deaf and hearing audience. It wasn't until the first printing of the *Guide* in 1860 that deaf people had a publication of their own.

Going, Going, Gone!

WANTED: Female roommate to share 1-BR apt. near campus, split \$600 rent, nonsmoker w/no pets. Email yiqiao.wang@gallaudet.edu.

ON THE GREEN

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